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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 8828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

VIA: AIR
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. MDL-A-6995

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M
FROM : Chief of Station, Karlsruhe
SUBJECT: GENERAL - OPERATIONAL
SPECIFIC: Josef Kurt MERK
REF : MDL-A-5530

DATE: 22 June 1951

MICROFILMED
MAY 4 1963
DOC. MICRO. SER.

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1. The following information is intended to supplement that contained in para. 1 of reference.

2. Josef Kurt MERK (true name) was born on 3 May 1915 in Fleinhausen, Kreis Augsburg. He is a German national and citizen. He has been married to Annemarie, nee RIEVE-RICHTER since 1944. They have no children. His parents, Josef and Matilde, live in Fleinhausen. Josef Kurt and Annemarie MERK live at Schlossstr. 94, Oberstaufen, near Augsburg. He is a Roman Catholic.

a. Josef Kurt MERK attended Volksschule in Fleinhausen and Mittelschule in Augsburg. He made all preparations to enter a Catholic seminary and did so but left shortly thereafter. After completing his education, he entered the business of his grandfather.

b. MERK was a member of the HJ; he attended the Gebietsfuhrerschule in Weyarn. He was a Gefolgschaftsfuehrer and member of the HJ-Bann in Augsburg. He was a member of the NSDAP from 1935 to 1945.

c. On 1 April 1935 he was drafted for the RAD (German labor service), to which he was assigned until May 1947 as Truppfuehrer and Fuehreranwaerter. He attended the Truppfuehrerschule in Isny/Allgau, and the Feldmeisterschule in Murnau. On 3 November 1937 he was drafted into the German army and assigned to Artillery Regiment 10 in Amberg. From October to December 1937 he attended an elective course (Auswahllehrgang) of the Akademie der Reichsjugendfuehrung. He remained a member of the artillery regiment until June 1940, taking part in the following:

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- c. (1) 1938 - Austria and Sudeten Germany
- (2) 1939 - Polish campaign. March into the CSR.
- (3) 1939 - OCS for artillery officers.
- (4) 1940 - Campaign against France. MERK last served with his artillery regiment as battery officer. On the basis of his cooperation with Abwehrstelle Dijon, he was transferred in June 1940 to GKW Amt Ausland/Abwehr and assigned to Abwehrstelle Dijon.

d. He was promoted to captain on 2 May 1945. From 15 August 1940 to 1944 he served with Ast Dijon in Referat III-F. In 1944 he was in charge of a FAK of Leitstelle West and came under the 19th Army.

e. From May until August 1945 he was an American PW in Tirol and Bavaria. He was released from Camp Sauerlach in August 1945. On 3 January he was again arrested and kept in the interrogation center in Memmingen until May 1946.

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